

Lanesboro City Council
Monday, November 7, 2011
Council Chambers at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Steve Rahn, Joe O'Connor, Tom Dybing, Ceil Allen and Keith Eide

Absent:

Visitors: Shayla Gehrke, Sean Maternowski, Jamie Knutson, Robert Culbertson, Vern Riddle, Vince Jeannette, Andy Drake and Tom Manion

REGULAR MEETING:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rahn.

Eide made the motion to approve the agenda, with the additions of an invite to the Commonweal Wine and Cheese event sponsored by Post Bulletin and a thank you letter in regards to the Ox Trail Road, second Dybing, motion carried.

The meeting minutes for the Regular Meeting October 3, 2011 were approved with a motion by Allen, second Dybing, motion carried.

PERSONS WITH BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL:

- A. Vern Riddle – Ambulance Director:** Riddle reported that at the last meeting the Ambulance voted to seek council approval for three squad leader positions. The assignments would be to provide local training for subjects not provided in recertification classes, review squad members and their responses and coach appropriately and to review the previous 10 day run reports for omissions and completion. The Ambulance is asking for a reimbursement for squad leaders of \$500 and for the ambulance director to be increased to \$2,000. Riddle also reported that the ambulance is recommending David Haugen to take on the Ambulance Director position. Rahn made a motion to approve David Haugen as the Ambulance Director as of December 1, 2011, second O'Connor, motion carried. After discussion it was agreed to discuss the Ambulance stipends at the next meeting in regards to the budget.
- B. Andy Drake – Street Supervisor:** Drake reported that when the response for the request for an ordinance to not allow skidloaders on public sidewalks was brought forth he was on vacation. He noted that with snow just around the corner he wanted to find out if the council had considered his request to eliminate the use of Skidloaders on the sidewalks. Drake noted that the weight of the machines is too much for 4" thick with no rebar sidewalks. Drake noted that the City is paying 50% of the costs of these sidewalks and that a new set of sidewalks put in 2010 are already cracked. Culbertson noted that the reason those sidewalks cracked is because it was too wet and muddy when the sidewalks were poured (they were addressing the sidewalks outside of Dale Honsey's house). Culbertson noted he has never seen cement crack in all of his years. He noted that he contacted Rushford and they do not have an ordinance against skidloaders on city sidewalks. O'Connor made a motion to table the item until we could gather information about casualty insurance and information in regards to cement and its ability to hold weight. Culbertson noted he would check on insurance. But noted that once a decision was made a notice would need to be sent out!

- C. Vince Jeannette** – Parkway Pub: Jeannette noted that it is time for the 9th Annual Turkey Bowling. He noted the event is always held the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and he would need approximately two parking spaces blocked off for the event. He noted that all funds raised go to the Seniors to pay for their class trip. Allen made a motion to approve the Turkey Bowling request, second Eide, motion carried.
- D. Charles Ruen** – Ox Cart Road: Charles Ruen showed up at the meeting. He wanted to thank the City Council for the improvements to the road. He noted that he and many of his friends, family and neighbors greatly appreciate the improvements as well. He noted that the extra work Andy did to touch up the road was great and that he appreciates Mayor Rahn's swift actions. He noted that the improvements far exceeded his expectations. At this time, Vickerman read aloud another thank you letter from Duane and Melissa Benson also thanking the city for the improvements.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION MEETINGS:

- A. EDA: October 12th and November 2nd - Vickerman:** Vickerman noted that the EDA is requesting up to \$400 to assist with a joint project with the Chamber for a "How to start a business in Lanesboro". Eide made a motion to approve up to \$400 for this project, second O'Connor, motion carried. Allen said she thinks it is a great plan and that it would be great to get progress reports and details as to how the project is going.
- B. Public Utilities: October 17th – O'Connor:** O'Connor noted that the Commission discussed the dam and met with the engineers of Ayres & Associates in regards to the options the City has. O'Connor noted that the \$900,000 option will not be approved by the SHPO office or the USDA, he noted to rebuild the dam historically the project jumps to almost 1.8 million.
- C. Library: October 11th – Allen:** Allen reported that the Library is planning a grand opening after their early January remodel. She also noted that the librarians and Vickerman along with SELCO will be seeking out further funds from the County. Vickerman noted that they sought a three year contract at 3%, 2% and 1% and at this point the Commissioners will stick with a three year contract at a 1% for each year.
- D. HPC: October 19th – Vickerman:** Vickerman noted that the HPC again was working with the Design Guidelines. She noted that the HPC recommended the St. Mane Theater be added to the historic list of properties for the City. Dybing made a motion to pursue adding the St. Mane Theater to the list of historic properties for Lanesboro, second Allen, motion carried.

HOUSEKEEPING:

- A. Paying of the Bills:** Rahn made a motion to pay bills as presented, second O'Connor, motion carried.
- B. Minnesota Energy Gas Franchise:** A franchise fee was discussed, but it was noted that the end payer would be the residents and commercial property owners, so the Council noted that the decision to approve the contract with attorney's review.

C. Insurance Annual Renewal: Vickerman noted that each year we select the Does Not Waive option. Rahn made a motion to renew insurance and to follow the Does Not Waive option, second O'Connor, motion carried.

D. Ambulance Billing Contract: Eide made a motion to approve the Ambulance Billing Contract for ExperT billing, second Dybing, motion carried.

E. Assessment for Utilities: Vickerman noted that we had two properties for which we have shut off their utilities. It was noted that Attorney Manion would sell out notices and give them an opportunity to fight the assessments at the next meeting, but otherwise the water and sewer charges could be assessed and electric charges could be pursued in small claims court.

F. 2012 Preliminary Budget & Levy: Vickerman noted that she had met with the employees and at this time two employees are still under contract and have received increases based on contractual agreements. She noted that another employee had just received a multiple step increase. On behalf of herself and the three other employees, two being from the Public Utilities she noted that the employees are seeking a \$1.20 increase per hour. She noted that the employees have not received an increase for three years and that they suggested the initial freeze due to the economic times, however she noted over those years the cost of living has increased and the employees are asking for a raise this year. She noted that she originally budgeted for 3% in the budget as a standard figure. She provided scenarios for 3%, 5%, \$1.20, \$1.00 and \$.80. After much discussion, Rahn made a motion for a 4% increase for the four employees remaining, second Eide, motion carried.

G. Joint Capital Meeting: Vickerman noted that a joint capital planning meeting was needed and she asked if a meeting could be held at 6:30 or 7pm following the next Council meeting. Members agreed that a 6:30pm joint capital planning meeting would work best.

H. Post Bulletin Wine & Cheese Event: Vickerman noted that she was asked by the Post Bulletin to invite all council members to the wine and cheese event that would be held on November 10th from 4:30-6:30.

I. Citizen's Comment: No comments.

ADJOURN:

Dybing made a motion to adjourn at 7:16pm, second Allen, motion carried.